



Please fill out the following application and return to the address listed at the end of the application by **March 16, 2026**. Grants will be reviewed and awarded based on factors within this application and available grant funds. Grants are typically awarded in late March or early April and the contact name listed on this application will be notified.

Organization

Address

City  State  Zip

Contact Name

Requested Funding

Has your organization received past grants from KP-SAME Education and Mentoring Fund?  
(If yes, please provide most recent grant amount awarded and any reasons for changes in this year's request.)

Yes, we received \$6999.99 in 2025 to improve the Engineering Academy's rapid prototyping capability in their maker space. With the funding, we were able to purchase a higher capability and reliable 3-D printer that can use different filament materials.

Students can now learn rapid prototyping techniques which can be used across all engineering disciplines. This enhances their learning and prepares them for college as well as future careers. It is invaluable hands-on experiences like these that make our program stand out.

**Organization Mission/Goals/Objectives/Purpose**

The mission of the Oldham County Educational Foundation (OCEF) is to elevate the educational experience for the students in Oldham County Schools. The Foundation funds projects that are typically outside the regular district budget. For many activities and programs within a school system that need additional financial resources, a fundraising support system is in place. For example, high school bands have Band Boosters. For other programs within Oldham County Schools, such as the Arvin Education Center, there are no such ongoing fundraising mechanisms outside of the efforts of the Oldham County Educational Foundation.

The Arvin Center is a non-traditional, free-standing high school where students can choose from three Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Academies: Engineering, Computer Science, and Biomedical (among other pathways like culinary or auto mechanics). PLTW is the country's leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs.

Principal Matt Watkins is passionate about meeting the future demand of students who desire to enroll in PLTW Academies. Each of the three Academy pathways are expanding, with the Engineering Academy in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. Offerings continue to expand, including dual credit college courses.

Who are your constituents and how many will benefit from your activities? (i.e. 25 high school students, 20 professional engineers, etc.)



**KENTUCKIANA POST**  
**Education and Mentoring Fund**

**Grant Funding**  
**Application**

The Engineering Academy is offered to students across all three Oldham County Schools high schools. Enrollment at Arvin for the 2025/26 school year is 1468 students, with 269 students in engineering. Enrollment for 2026/27 is currently happening.

We are starting a new robotics engineering course in our engineering pathway. This project will directly impact approximately 85 second-year students and 25 senior capstone students. There are plans to continue growth and add even more offerings. Other students in our engineering pathway will also be using the materials.

What is your approximate annual operating budget?

Arvin's annual operating budget is \$40,000.00

What are your other funding sources? (i.e. private donations, fund raisers, other organizations, grants, etc.)

Teacher salaries and benefits, transportation and facility needs are funded by the Oldham County Board of Education through the regular budget process.

Equipment, supplies, field trips, and other needs are supported through grants, private donations, and corporate partnerships.



How will the funds be used?

The funds will be used for our new Robotics Course; specifically, to purchase VEX Workcell Kits (<https://www.vexrobotics.com/234-8952.html>) (\$2,499 per kit)

And VEX Classroom Bundles (<https://www.vexrobotics.com/exp>) (\$4,369.99 per kit)

We currently have outdated robotics parts and not enough to support our expansion into a new robotics course offering. These funds will be used to support the new class and curriculum which will teach mechanical building and computer programming. The workcell kits will teach students how to build and program automation similar to real life factory cells. The classroom bundle or education kit help support the program curriculum teaching advanced coding and building.

We would like to be able to purchase 5 workcell kits and 5 education kits. This would allow all students access where they don't have to wait in line to access the equipment and apply their learning.

Cost breakdown: \$12,495 (VEX Workcell Kits)  
\$4,097.45 (VEX Education Kits)  
Total cost: \$16,592.45

Are you a non-profit organization?

When are the funds needed and/or scheduled to be used?

Ideally, we would appreciate the funds by July 1, 2026 so we can purchase during the summer and have everything ready for students in August 2026 in time for the start of the 2026-27 school year.

How will your activities promote KP-SAME and its missions?

**SAME Mission:** *The mission of the Society of American Military Engineers is to promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals.*

**KP-SAME Education and Mentoring Fund Purpose:** *The Kentuckiana Post Education and Mentoring Fund was established to promote and enhance engineering education at all levels from grade school through professional development.*

The Engineering Academy at the Arvin Education Center exists to encourage and prepare students for postsecondary educational opportunities in engineering fields, as well as promoting professional careers in engineering.

KP-SAME member April Vance, P.E. has been a volunteer at the Arvin Education Center in past years, as well as a member of the Oldham County Educational Foundation Board of Directors. Additionally, we have benefited from KP SAME members reviewing and critiquing our senior students' Capstone Projects and mentoring students. Bill Nieport has provided support in career discussions and challenged students in the practicality and feasibility of various designs associated with the PLTW curriculum. Tony Marconi has volunteered time over many years. We welcome the chance to connect further with members of the Kentuckiana SAME Post. The best way to cultivate relationships is to spend time with our



**KENTUCKIANA POST**  
**Education and Mentoring Fund**

**Grant Funding**  
**Application**

students in an authentic manner. Our students love every opportunity they get to speak with your members and we would love to encourage members to let us know of opportunities.

*Please submit a completed copy of this application before **March 16, 2026**. Applications can be submitted via e-mail to [tmarconi@heritageeng.com](mailto:tmarconi@heritageeng.com) or hardcopy to the address below. Any questions regarding this application or the KP-SAME Education and Mentoring Fund can be directed to Tony Marconi at [tmarconi@heritageeng.com](mailto:tmarconi@heritageeng.com).*

**Application Submittal Address:**

**Tony Marconi, KP-SAME Education and Mentoring Fund Chairman**  
**[tmarconi@heritageeng.com](mailto:tmarconi@heritageeng.com)**  
**502-939-8885**